

REMARKS

Claims 17-36 were pending with none of the claims yet indicated allowable. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance for at least the reasons below.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Definiteness Rejections

Applicant thanks the Office for its recognition of the syntax errors in claims 24 and 32, and has amended the claims accordingly. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Enablement and Written Description and Rejections

The Office maintains its enablement and written description concerns regarding claims 24, 32, 35 and 36. In the interest of advancing prosecution, and without disclaimer, claims 24, 32, 35, and 36 are currently amended similarly to the manner suggested by the Office. Applicant thanks the Office for its suggestion and requests reconsideration of the instant rejections.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

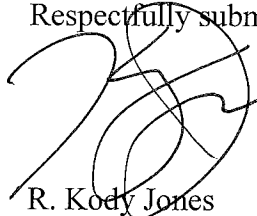
The Office maintains its rejections of claims 17-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,375,949 (“Salooja”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,039,507 (“Sturm”) and U.S. Patent No. 4,029,752 (“Cahn”), and in further view of United States Patent No. 4,196,057 (“May”), United States Patent No. 5,011,516 (“Altman”), and applicant’s admitted prior art.

On page 12 of the instant Office Action, under the Response to Arguments section, the Office expresses concerns over whether limitations related to applicant’s particular method of sulfur trioxide reduction are sufficiently recited in the claims to distinguish over Salooja’s use of an interstage catalyst, a first stage catalyst, and a second stage catalyst. Applicant has currently amended the independent claims without disclaimer in the interest of advancing prosecution to further distinguish over the Salooja method and the hypothetical combination. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant notes that because applicant has addressed certain concerns of the Office does not mean that applicant concedes other comments of the Office. Furthermore, in the interest of clarity and brevity, the fact that applicant has made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not necessarily suggest that there are not additional supportive grounds for the patentability of those or other claims. However, if any issue remains unresolved, applicant's representative would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Kody Jones', is written over the typed name.

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